



Northwestern Division: Program Management Plan for Regional Sediment Management

ISSUE: The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Northwestern Division (NWD) is undertaking several Regional Sediment Management (RSM) activities, with the focus at this time on the Columbia River Basin and Puget Sound. As RSM concepts are applied in NWD, additional projects will be considered in coastal river basins in Washington and Oregon, and in the Missouri River Basin. There is a need to provide programmatic guidance for current and future RSM projects within NWD boundaries, which include the Pacific Northwest and Missouri River Basin. This geographic area is encompassed by the five NWD Districts: Portland, Omaha, Seattle, Walla Walla, and Kansas City (Figure 1). The guidance will assure consistency among projects and efficient application of RSM concepts to sediment management in the region.

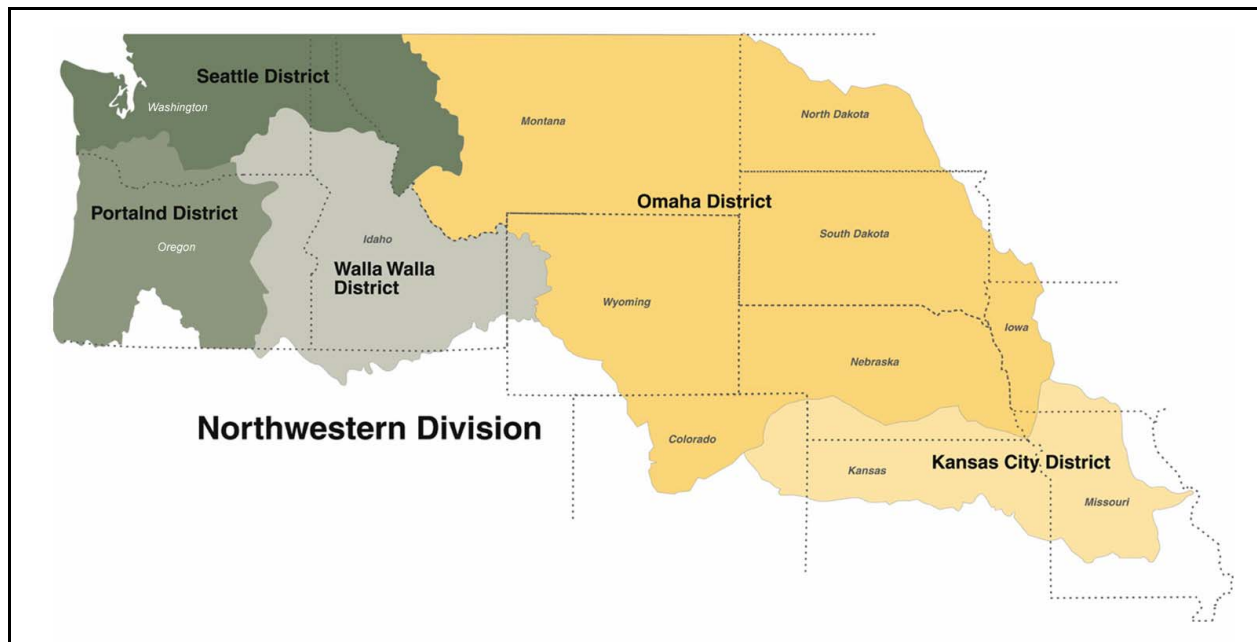


Figure 1. USACE Northwestern Division and District boundaries

RSM DEMONSTRATION PROJECT GOALS: The Northwestern Division goal for this demonstration project is to prepare a Program Management Plan (PgMP) which will provide a business plan and implementation strategy for RSM projects undertaken by the Corps in the Pacific Northwest and the Missouri River Basin. The activities will focus on RSM applications in both coastal and riverine environments. The PgMP will apply to dredging, ecosystem restoration, regulatory permitting, endangered species recovery, hydrosystem operation, flood

control, and any other Corps programs or activities where sediment movement or placement can benefit the economy and environment.

SUMMARY AND STATUS: This demonstration project began in March 2005 by designating a Corps team to prepare the PgMP. Team members are from the Division office and Portland, Walla Walla, and Seattle Districts. As of June 2005, the team has been meeting on a regular basis and has produced preliminary and revised draft plans. The draft PgMP builds on similar guidance prepared recently by the Corps' North Atlantic and South Atlantic Divisions, and recommendations from the RSM Policy Workshop held in New York City in April 2005. The PgMP will undergo an external regional review process during summer 2005.

RSM demonstration funds support District participation in the process. The PgMP contains a vision statement along with goals and objectives of implementing RSM. It establishes a Regional Sediment Management Team consisting of Division and District representatives to oversee RSM implementation in NWD, and defines roles for the team. It includes sections which define a work breakdown structure, resource requirements, reporting process, project approval, and a communication plan. The PgMP will be consistent with the Corps' Regional Business Practices and its Environmental Operating Principles. It will be an umbrella plan, which will link to project management plans for specific RSM activities. It will support Corps participation in regional strategic stakeholder alliances to address regional sediment issues more effectively. The team is working to have the PgMP approved by senior NWD managers following the external review process. It will be a living document, to be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The PgMP completion schedule is:

Draft PgMP	June 2005
Regional review	July - August 2005
Final PgMP	September 2005

LESSONS LEARNED: The RSM Team plans to conduct an After Action Review when the PgMP is completed. This will include a description of successes, what could be done better, how well RSM is actually working in NWD programs, and what changes need to be made to more efficiently utilize RSM concepts in Corps programs and projects.

KEY WORDS: Program Management Plan, Regional Sediment Management Team, riverine, coastal

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